Adequate safeguards have been built in the MOS to ensure that the non-tribals in the Bodo Territorial Council (BTC) areas are not disadvantaged in relation to any rights and privileges including land rights presently enjoyed by them at the commencement of BTC.

Amendment in Official Secrets Act, 1923

†3441. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI LAJPAT RAI :

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received letters from some Members of Parliament insisting to amend the Official Secrets Act, 1923;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and whether prior to this the Press Council of India had also insisted for this; and

(c) if so, the period when the Government have received the above letters and the decision taken so far in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The matter is being looked into and the position in this regard will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financial assistance to Kerala for modernisation of police

3442. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala sought financial assistance from the Central Government to modernise the State Police Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government extended financial assistance to Kerala to defray the cost of modernisation of the State Police;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any proposal for financial assistance put in by Kerala has been pending for decision, and if so, the details thereof ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central annual allocation to Kerala under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces.is Rs. 31.50 crore. The Scheme is operated on a 50 : 50 cost sharing basis between the Centre and the State Government. The details of police modernization plans received from Kerala, plans approved and Central funds released during the previous three financial years are as under :—

(Rs. in crores)

Years	Plan received for	Plan approved for	Central funds released
2000-01	60.77	58.57	29.28
2001-02	63.34	62.23	31.11
2002-03	74.00	72.00	25.63*

The release of funds is based on the utilization of funds in respect of the approved plans of the previous two financial years.

*This includes an amount of Rs. 0.31 crore placed at the disposal of Directorate of Coordination (Police Wireless) for implementation of POLNET project in the State of Kerala.

(e) No proposal for financial assistance received for police modernisation from the Government of Kerala is pending. Funds under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces for 2002-03 have already been released.

Amount released for Earthquake Victims of Uttaranchal

3443. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned and released so far for the rehabilitation and reconstruction in the super earthquake affected district of Uttarkashi of Uttaranchal State from early 1990 till date;

(b) whether it is a fact that amount do not reach the earthquake affected families properly while the some NGOs, some State Governments and also Central Government have sent various varieties of assistance; and